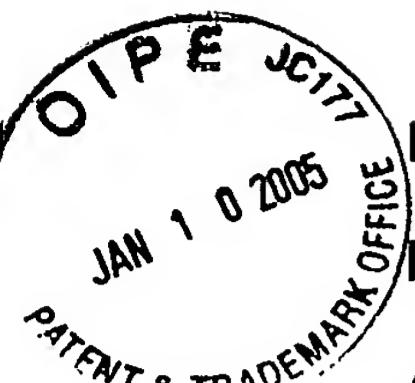


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re Patent Application of)
Makoto Kitamura et al.) Group Art Unit: 1722
Application No.: 10/000,067) Examiner: Thukhanh T. Nguyen
Filed: December 4, 2001) Confirmation No.: 9557
For: POWDER SUPPLYING)
APPARATUS AND POWDER)
MOLDING APPARATUS)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: January 10, 2005

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in order to facilitate processing in the above-identified application. Concurrently filed with this is a Petition for Extension of Time for one month. Please amend the above-identified application as follows: